GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2068
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017
Projected Sugar Production
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had projected sugar production to be 22.5 million tonnes for 2016-17 but the actual production remained 20 million tonnes, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(b) whether sugar mills in Maharashtra have produced 40.56 lakh tonnes of sugar compared to 66.62 lakh tonnes produced during the corresponding period of the previous year and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether measures are proposed to be taken to remove the shortage of sugar in the market and to stabilise the prices and if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to check the black marketing of sugar; and
(d) the other steps taken by the Government to make available sufficient sugar to take care of the domestic requirement and lessen the dependency on imports?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a): After taking into account the first advance estimate of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation and on the basis of inputs received in the meeting of cane commissioners on 14.10.2016, the sugar production was initially estimated at 225.21 lakh tones. However, due to decrease of sugarcane production on account of drought in major sugar producing states like Maharashtra, Karnataka, etc and diversion of cane to other allied sectors like Gur, Khandsari, etc., the earlier estimates of sugar production may undergo downward revision. Actual sugar production data is not available before the closing of the sugar season.
(b): As per the information received from Government of Maharashtra, up to 19th February, 2017, sugar mills in Maharashtra have produced 40.56 lakh tonnes of sugar compared to 65.62 lakh tones produced during corresponding period of the previous year/season.
(c)&(d): With the estimated opening stock of 77 lakh tones for the current sugar season 2016-17, sufficient sugar would be available to meet domestic consumption of about 242 lakh tones. However, with the objective of keeping the sugar prices at reasonable level and to ensure smooth supply of sugar for consumers, the Central Government has imposed stock holding and turn over limits on stockist/ dealers of sugar. The Central Government has also authorized the State Governments and the Union territory Administrations to enforce this order to prevent speculative tendencies and hoarding activities. Further, the Government has imposed custom duty @ 20% on export of sugar to conserve sugar stocks in the country to ensure its availability at a reasonable price.
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